

NSC BRIEFING

5 March 1958

RYUKYU ISLANDS (OKINAWA)--short form

- I. Elections for 29-seat unicameral legislature take place 16 March.
- II. Political parties range from conservative Democratic Party through moderate left-of-center socialists to pro-Communist Liaison Council for the Protection of Democracy (LCPD).
- A. Local elections since 1956, have shown growing leftist trend resulting from:
1. Discontent with US land acquisition policies,
 2. Nationalistic sentiment for reversion to Japan.
- III.
- IV. Tokyo officially accepts US control and Japanese residual sovereignty.
- A. Japanese Socialists demand for return of Ryukyus may force Kishi publicly to oppose US on Okinawa.
- V. Election forecast difficult.
- A. Democratic Party probably will lose majority in legislature, leftists will gain seats--possibly increasing their representation to seven (out of 29)--but independents will hold balance of power.
- B. US High Commissioner deeply concerned over threat to US security posed by leftist trend.

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